

## ALPINE NOTES.

ALPINE CLUB RELIEF FUND.—The following letter has been sent to all members of the Alpine Club:—

March 1888.

DEAR SIR,—The Committee of the Club have authorised us to make an appeal in their name, to the Members, on behalf of the sufferers from the recent destructive avalanches in the Alps.

This winter has been characterised by exceptionally heavy falls of snow. Accounts recently received from abroad, while fully confirming previous reports of calamities in some instances, add largely to them in others; for example, we may mention that in the North Italian Valleys more than one hundred lives are known to have been lost, and damage done which is estimated at 500,000fr. In the Saas Valley, in Randa and the adjoining districts, there has been loss of life, and great loss of property, especially cattle. The list of disasters could be greatly extended, but we need not now multiply instances.

The Management of the Fund will be undertaken by the Committee of the Club, and all subscriptions will be acknowledged in the 'Alpine Journal' and the 'Times' newspaper.

An appeal will be made also to the general public through the Press.

Subscriptions may be paid direct to Messrs. Twining, 215 Strand, W.C., to account 'Alpine Club Relief Fund,' or to either of the Hon. Treasurers.

We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

C. T. DENT,

61 Brook Street, W.

W. F. DONKIN,

142 Sinclair Road, Hammersmith, W.)

Hon.  
Treasurers.

The following subscriptions amounting to 418*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* have been already received or promised:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
D. J. Abercromby, Esq.	5	5	0	G. E. Foster, Esq.	10	0	0
Sir F. O. Adams, K.C.M.G.	2	2	0	D. W. Freshfield, Esq.	2	0	0
Clifford Allbutt, Esq., M.D.	1	1	0	F. Gardiner, Esq.	2	0	0
R. N. Arkle, Esq.	5	5	0	R. Gaskell, Esq.	3	3	0
R. F. Ball, Esq.	1	1	0	Rev. H. B. George	1	1	0
G. S. Barnes, Esq.	3	3	0	W. S. Harris, Esq.	1	1	0
R. M. Beachcroft, Esq.	5	5	0	Rev. A. C. Haviland	2	2	0
Prof. Bonney, F.R.S.	2	0	0	C. G. Heathcote, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. J. T. Bramston	5	0	0	H. W. Henderson, Esq.	2	2	0
W. J. Bull, Esq.	1	0	0	A. K. Hichens, Esq.	2	2	0
C. Burlingham, Esq.	1	1	0	G. H. Hodgson, Esq.	2	2	0
H. E. Buxton, Esq.	2	2	0	H. W. Holder, Esq.	1	1	0
Lieut.-Col. J. R. Campbell	1	1	0	M. Holzmann, Esq.	5	5	0
Ellis Carr, Esq.	3	3	0	J. A. Hutchison, Esq.	1	1	0
M. Carteighe, Esq.	5	5	0	T. P. H. Jose, Esq.	2	2	0
H. Cockburn, Esq.	2	2	0	J. A. Luttmann Johnson, Esq.	2	2	0
Prof. W. M. Conway	1	1	0	H. S. King, Esq., M.P.	10	10	0
Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge	1	1	0	W. Larden, Esq.	1	0	0
R. R. Dees, Esq.	3	0	0	C. E. Layton, Esq.	3	3	0
C. T. Dent, Esq.	21	0	0	W. Leaf, Esq.	5	0	0
W. F. Donkin, Esq.	3	3	0	R. Liveing, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0
J. Eccles, Esq.	5	5	0	A. T. Malkin, Esq.	2	2	0
T. W. Evans, Esq.	2	0	0	W. Marcet, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0
Rev. A. Fairbanks	2	2	0	C. E. Mathews, Esq.	5	5	0
J. D. Finney, Esq.	1	1	0	J. O. Maund, Esq.	5	5	0
E. H. Fison, Esq.	3	3	0	H. T. Mennell, Esq.	2	2	0
C. F. Foster, Esq.	5	0	0	F. C. Mills, Esq.	3	0	0
				G. H. Morse, Esq.	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
A. Mortimer, Esq.	1	1	0	Rev. J. M. Gordon	2	2	0
W. Muir, Esq.	3	3	0	Mrs. Topham	2	2	0
Rev. F. H. Murray	3	3	0	A. Henderson, Esq.	2	2	0
R. C. Nichols, Esq.	2	2	0	A. Shipley, Esq.	2	2	0
W. J. Nixon, Esq.	1	1	0	J. R. Capron, Esq.	2	0	0
H. J. Norman, Esq.	3	0	0	H. Downes, Esq.	2	0	0
C. Oakley, Esq.	3	3	0	Mrs. Tomlinson	2	0	0
C. Packe, Esq.	2	0	0	James Gill, Esq.	2	0	0
H. Pasteur, Esq.	2	2	0	M. E. Moysey	2	0	0
J. E. H. Peyton, Esq.	1	1	0	N. H. Vertue, Esq.	2	0	0
C. Pilkington, Esq.	5	0	0	W. Bracken	2	0	0
L. Pilkington, Esq.	3	0	0	Rev. C. Dent	1	4	0
F. Pollock, Esq.	2	2	0	W. C. Clayton, Esq.	1	1	0
W. W. R. Powell, Esq.	1	0	0	J. F. Cobb, Esq.	1	1	0
A. D. Puckle, Esq.	1	1	0	Miss Dismore	1	1	0
W. B. Puckle, Esq.	2	2	0	H. D. Waugh, Esq., M.D.	1	1	0
G. H. Savage, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0	J. Williams, Esq.	1	1	0
F. O. Schuster, Esq.	5	5	0	Mrs. Blandy	1	1	0
Leslie Stephen, Esq.	2	2	0	Rev. M. R. Edmeades	1	1	0
S. F. Still, Esq.	3	3	0	Mrs. S. Warner	1	1	0
R. G. Tatton, Esq.	2	2	0	J. J. Morgan, Esq.	1	1	0
F. Tendron, Esq.	2	2	0	A. G. Feraud, Esq.	1	1	0
H. Thomas, Esq.	1	0	0	W. A. Burnett, Esq.	1	1	0
J. J. Thorney, Esq.	2	2	0	W. J. Palmer, Esq., M.D.	1	1	0
J. W. Hook Thorp, Esq.	1	0	0	W. Sharp, Esq.	1	1	0
A. G. Topham, Esq.	5	5	0	C. Reeve, Esq.	1	1	0
J. Tyndall, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S.	3	3	0	W. Weston, Esq.	1	1	0
H. Wagner, Esq.	2	2	0	Miss Evans	1	0	0
Horace Walker, Esq.	5	0	0	'Sans Souci'	1	0	0
F. A. Wallroth, Esq.	10	10	0	L. M. C.	1	0	0
H. Weber, Esq., M.D.	2	2	0	Rev. A. A. Scott	1	0	0
J. H. Wicks, Esq.	3	3	0	E. Downes, Esq.	1	0	0
Alfred Williams, Esq.	2	2	0	Mrs. Lacy	1	0	0
H. G. Willink, Esq.	3	3	0	J. S. Mann, Esq.	1	0	0
The Hon. Mr. Justice Wills	5	5	0	W. Bracken	1	0	0
C. Wilson, Esq., M.D.	1	0	0	Miss Openshaw	1	0	0
R. D. Wilson, Esq.	5	0	0	E. Wheeler, Esq.	1	0	0
				H. T. Rhoades, Esq.	1	0	0
J. H. Daniell, Esq.	10	10	0	Miss L. Cade	0	15	0
J. C. J. Drucker, Esq.	10	0	0	Per L. R. Mayne, Esq.	0	11	0
Mrs. E. P. Jackson	5	5	0	Miss E. Downes	0	10	0
C. B. Heberden, Esq.	5	5	0	Miss F. Hawtrey	0	10	0
Lady Augusta Onslow	5	5	0	C. Sergison	0	10	0
P. W. Squire, Esq.	5	5	0	M. A. E. Halliwell	0	5	0
W. Edwards, Esq.	5	0	0	Miss Lucy Cotes	0	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. R. Longfield	5	0	0	Rev. W. Howlett	0	5	0
E. C. and M. J.	5	0	0	Rev. J. Godson	0	5	0
H. Prescott, Esq.	5	0	0	E. S.	0	5	0
F. Schuster, Esq.	5	0	0	A Lover of Zermatt	0	2	6
W. R. Portal, Esq.	4	0	0	Anonymous	0	2	6
G. Broke, Esq.	3	18	9	A Sympathiser	0	2	6
E. Schuster, Esq.	3	0	0	L. R. Mayne, Esq.	0	2	0
H. B. Blandy, Esq.	2	2	0	A Lover of Switzerland	0	2	0
H. A. Beeching, Esq.	2	2	0	A.	0	1	0

Herr Lorria has also sent to Herr Seiler direct the sum of 120 francs collected by him in Vienna, and subscriptions are being raised by the various foreign Alpine clubs.

At a meeting of the Committee held on April 18 it was decided to send out at once 200*l.* for the relief of the distress in the North Italian valleys, 40*l.* for the benefit of the Randa district, and 40*l.* for the benefit of the Saas district. The Central Committee of the Italian Alpine Club will superintend the distribution of the first-named sum. The money for the Randa district will be distributed under the advice of MM. Alexander Seiler and Josef Seiler, and that for the Saas district will be entrusted to the Curé, the Vicaire, the Syndic, and the Landlord of the Hôtel at Saas-Grund.

The Committee have endeavoured to ensure that in the distribution of the Alpine Club Relief Fund the following general conditions shall be, so far as may be possible, observed:—(1) That no part of their fund be applied to the repair of injury to any church, public building, or hotel, or for the succour of any person not really in want of charitable aid. (2) The funds to be applied generally towards the reinstatement of buildings belonging to the poorer peasants or towards the replacing of stock or cattle, or in other ways which will help the recipient to recover his own position for himself and to resume profitable industry. (3) That a detailed account be rendered of the manner in which the funds have been distributed.

Writing under date April 17, Mr. R. H. Budden states that, from the latest information received, 158 lives had been lost in the Italian valleys, and the damage done was then estimated at about one million of francs.

The 'Schweizer Alpen-Zeitung' of April 15, 1888, contains a distressing account of disasters due to the exceptional avalanches. Thus in the Canton Ticino 41 lives had been lost and 420 head of cattle of all kinds. It is hoped that further subscriptions may be forthcoming, and that substantial aid may be given to the sufferers in these less visited districts, as well as to those about Saas and Zermatt.

ACCESS TO MOUNTAINS IN THE LAKES.—We gladly publish the following paragraph, which has been forwarded to us:—'We are given to understand that the very important test case of right of access to mountain summits, as involved in the Latrigg case at Keswick, is expected to be heard at the coming summer Assizes, Carlisle, and it is clear that the costs involved in such an arduous undertaking (*pro bono publico*) are sure to be heavy. A guarantee fund is being raised, and not a single lover of our English Lakes, or seeker of health or rest in the land of our Lake Poets, should neglect to support the efforts made by the defendants in this case, on behalf of such national vital interests. Promises of guarantee or donations to the defence fund will be received and acknowledged by Mr. Henry Irwin Jenkinson, Keswick, Cumberland, the hon. sec. and treasurer.' It is stated in an accompanying circular, issued by the Keswick and District Footpath Preservation Association, that 'Now for the first time in the memory of man, the ascent of a Cumberland hill, of any height, has been obstructed, and the residents and visitors to Keswick have been warned from ascending the most important height within easy reach of the town. Obstructions of a formidable nature have barred the ways, which, if acquiesced in, will deprive the public of one of the most beautiful

panoramic scenes in Lakeland. Latrigg, the hill in question, is a spur of Skiddaw, overhanging Keswick, 1,200 feet above sea-level. The public access to the top has only been questioned within the past two years.'

THE DAUPHINÉ GUIDE-BOOK.—The publisher of this work (Mons. Gratier, of Grenoble) has issued a notice (dated February 15) to the subscribers to the effect that the maps belonging to it will be issued in time for use during the summer season of 1888, and that the delay in their appearance has been solely due to the fact that the gentleman who undertook to prepare them (Mons. H. Dubamel) could not procure earlier some important information which he required to bring his work to an end.

WINTER EXPEDITIONS.—The January number of the 'Rivista Mensile' of the Italian Alpine Club gives the following particulars of the traverse of Mont Blanc effected by Signori Vittorio, Corradino, Gaudenzio, and Erminio Sella. Accompanied by Giuseppe, Daniele, and Battista Maquignaz and Emile Rey, they went up to the Aiguille Grise hut on December 31. There they were detained by bad weather no less than three days. Starting at midnight, they gained the summit of Mont Blanc at 1.20 p.m. on January 5, having been much delayed by the vast quantity of freshly fallen snow and of ice on the rocks. The weather was becoming bad when they gained the summit and snow falling, but there was not much wind and the temperature was only  $-17^{\circ}$  C. ( $=1^{\circ}$  F.). Many steps had to be cut on the Bosses; mist, then darkness, came on; and the Grands Mulets was not reached till 10.30 p.m., after a very remarkable and daring enterprise.

We learn also that on January 7 Signor Arturo Eckerlin, with three Alagna guides, crossed the Lysjoch. Leaving the Capanna Gnifetti at 4.50 a.m., they gained the pass at 7.15, but such serious difficulties were encountered on the other side by reason of concealed crevasses that the party were forced to climb over a spur of the Dufour Spitze, and did not reach the Riffel till 8 p.m. and Zermatt till 9.15 p.m. The lowest observed temperature at the hut was  $-15^{\circ}$  C. ( $=5^{\circ}$  F.), but on the pass it was  $-24^{\circ}$  C. ( $=-10^{\circ}$  F.).

The Wetterhorn was ascended on January 22 by a large party from Meiringen, which started from the Dossenhütte at 6 a.m. and gained the summit at 11.20. On January 21 Herr Joseph Seiler, with two friends and three guides, ascended the Zermatt Breithorn, taking  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. up from the lower Théodule hut. Herr Bettschart, of Schwyz, on his ascent of the Titlis on January 17 from the Trübsee hut, had the luck to enjoy a perfect view, and was able to take photographs from the summit, the temperature being  $-7^{\circ}$  R. ( $=16^{\circ}$  F.) during the hour and a quarter (2.20 to 3.35 p.m.) spent there.

The winter mountaineering season of 1888 has thus been probably the most brilliant on record.

THE ALPINE PORTFOLIO.—We understand that under the above title it is proposed to issue to subscribers a set of Alpine views, based partly on photographs taken by the best professionals and amateurs, and partly on some to be taken expressly for this work. It is proposed in the first instance to confine the undertaking to the Pennine Alps

between the Simplon and the Great St. Bernard. Should this volume meet with success it is hoped in course of time to extend the series to other districts of the Alps.

The Pennine Alps volume will consist of at least one hundred separate mountain views, printed in the most artistic way in permanent heliotype on the best plate paper, measuring about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  by 16 inches. The prints themselves will average about 8 inches by 10. They will be enclosed in a handsome portfolio. The descriptive letterpress, which will include a short description of the district, will be printed on paper of a similar size, and bound in a suitable cover. The views will include many not hitherto published, though in existence in private collections. Mrs. Main, Messrs. Donkin, Duhamel, Sella, Beck, Güssfeldt, Kurz, and others have promised to assist the editors, Messrs. O. Eckenstein and A. Lorria.

It is hoped that the Pennine Alps volume may be published by the end of the present year. The price to subscribers will be five guineas. Names should be sent in at once to Mr. O. Eckenstein, 62 Basinghall Street, E.C. A limited number only of copies will be printed, and will be distributed among the subscribers in order of application.

AN ADVENTURE ON THE MATTERHORN.—The narrow escape from death of Herren Lammer and Lorria on the Matterhorn last August has excited so much interest that it may be well to put on record here Herr Lorria's definitive account of the adventure. The following extracts are taken from an article by him published in the 'St. Moritz Post and Davos News' for January 28, 1888:—

'I fancied the Pointe de Zinal as the object of our tour; but Lammer, who had never been on the Matterhorn, wished to climb this mountain by the western flank—a route which had only once before been attacked, namely, by Mr. Penhall [on September 3, 1879 \*], with Ferdinand Imseug and Louis Zurbrücken as guides. . . . We had with us the drawing of Penhall's route, published in the 'Alpine Journal,' vol. ix. . . . After skirting a jutting cliff, we reached the couloir at its narrowest point. It was clear that we had followed the route laid down in the 'Alpine Journal'; and although Mr. Penhall says that the rocks here are very easy, I cannot at all agree with him. . . .

'We could not simply cross over the couloir, for, on the opposite side, the rocks looked horrible: it was only possible to cross it some forty or fifty mètres higher. We climbed down to the couloir: the ice was furrowed by avalanches: these furrows are well shown in a photograph taken by Signor Vittorio Sella, two days after our accident. We were obliged to cut steps as we mounted upwards in a sloping direction. In a quarter of an hour we were on the other side of the couloir. The impression which the couloir made upon me is best shown by the words which at the moment I addressed to Lammer: "We are now completely cut off." We saw clearly that it was only the early hour, before the sun was yet upon the couloir, which protected us from danger. Once more upon the rocks, we kept our course, as much as possible, parallel to the N.W. arête. We clam-

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\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 453-457.

bered along, first over rocks covered with ice, then over glassy ledges, always sloping downwards. Our progress was slow indeed: the formation of the rock surface was ever becoming more unfavourable, and the covering of ice was a fearful hindrance.

'Such difficult rocks I had rarely seen before; the wrinkled ledges of the Dent Blanche were easy compared to them. At 1 P.M. we were standing on a level with the "Grand Tower"; the summit lay close before us; but, as far as we could see, the rocks were completely coated with a treacherous layer of ice. Immediately before us was a precipitous ice couloir. All attempts to advance were fruitless, even our crampons were of no avail. Driven back! If this, in all cases, is a heavy blow for the mountain climber, we had here, in addition, the danger which we knew so well, and which was every moment increasing. It was one o'clock in the afternoon: the rays of the sun already struck the western wall of the mountain; stone after stone, loosened from its icy fetters, whistled past us. Back! As fast as possible back! Lammer pulled off his shoes, and I stuffed them into my knapsack (holding also our two ice-axes\*). As I clambered down the first I was often obliged to trust to the rope. The ledges, which had given us trouble in the ascent, were now fearfully difficult. Across a short ice slope, in which we had cut steps on the ascent, Lammer was obliged, as time pressed, to get along without his shoes. The difficulties increased; every moment the danger became greater; and already whole avalanches of stones rattled down. The situation was indeed critical. At last, after immense difficulty we reached the edge of the couloir at the place we had left it in the ascent. But we could find no spot protected from the stones; they literally came down upon us like hail. Which was the more serious danger, the threatening avalanches in the couloir or the pelting of the stones which swept down from every side? On the far side of the couloir there was safety, as all the stones must in the end reach the couloir, which divides the whole face of the mountain into two parts. It was now five o'clock in the afternoon; the burning rays of the sun came down upon us, and countless stones whirled through the air. We remembered the saying of Dr. Güssfeldt, in his magnificent description of the passage of the Col du Lion, that only at midnight is tranquillity restored. We resolved, then, to risk the short stretch across the couloir. Lammer pulled on his shoes; I was the first to leave the rocks. The snow which covered the ice was suspiciously soft, but we had no need to cut steps. In the avalanche track before us on the right a mighty avalanche is thundering down; stones leap into the couloir, and again give rise to new avalanches.

'Suddenly my consciousness is extinguished, and I do not recover it till twenty-one days later. I can, therefore, only tell what Lammer saw. Gently from above an avalanche of snow came sliding down upon us; it carried Lammer away in spite of his efforts, and it projected me with my head against a rock. Lammer was blinded by the

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\* The bracketed words are inserted at the express request of Herr Lorria, in order to explain why he was forced to trust so much to the rope on the descent.—EDITOR.

powdery snow, and thought that his last hour was come. The thunder of the roaring avalanche was fearful; we were dashed over rocks, laid bare in the avalanche track, and leaped over two immense bergschrunds. At every change of the slope we flew into the air, and then were plunged again into the snow, and often dashed against one another. For a long time it seemed to Lammer as if all were over, countless thoughts were thronging through his brain, until at last the avalanche had expended its force, and we were left lying on the Tiefenmatten Glacier. The height of our fall was estimated by the engineer Imfeld at from 200 to 300 mètres (550 to 800 English feet).

'I lay unconscious, quite buried in the snow; the rope had gone twice round my neck, and bound it fast. Lammer, who quickly recovered consciousness, pulled me out of the snow, cut the rope, and gave me a good shake. I then awoke, but being delirious, I resisted with all my might my friend's endeavours to pull me out of the track of the avalanche. However, he succeeded in getting me on to a stone (I was, of course, unable to walk), and gave me his coat; and having thus done all that was possible for me, he began to creep downwards on hands and knees. He could not stand, having a badly sprained ankle; except for that he escaped with merely a few bruises and scratches. At length Dr. Lammer arrived at the Stockje hut, but to his intense disappointment there was nobody there. He did not pause to give vent to his annoyance, however, but continued his way down. Twice he felt nearly unable to proceed, and would have abandoned himself to his fate had not the thought of me kept him up and urged him on. At three o'clock in the early morning he reached the Staffel Alp, but none of the people there were willing to venture on the glacier. He now gave up all hope that I could be saved, though he nevertheless sent a messenger to Herr Seiler, who reached Zermatt at about 4.15 A.M.

'In half an hour's time a relief party set out from Zermatt, consisting of Joseph Seiler and Oscar Eckenstein, of London, the guides Johann Kederbacher of Berchtesgaden, Joseph and August Gentinetta of Glies, and Joseph Maria Blumenthal of Saas. When the party reached the Staffel Alp, Lammer was unconscious, but most fortunately he had written on a piece of paper the information that I was lying at the foot of Penhall's couloir. They found me about half-past eight o'clock.

'I had taken off all my clothes in my delirium, and had slipped off the rock on which Lammer had left me. One of my feet was broken, and both were frozen into the snow, and had to be cut out with an axe. The foreign doctors then in Zermatt wished to amputate both my legs, but, thanks to the skilful advice of Dr. de Courten, I am still in possession of them. My nose and two of my teeth were broken, and I was covered with wounds, and for more than a week I feared that I might lose my eyesight. The journey over the glacier to the Staffel Alp, where Dr. de Courten awaited my arrival, was a terrible business. At 8 P.M. I was brought back to Zermatt, and for twenty days I lay unconscious at the Monte Rosa Hôtel hovering between life

and death. I will not enter into further details concerning my illness, beyond saying that I have not yet recovered entirely from the effects of my accident. My foot did not completely heal in Zermatt; a so-called pseudotrose was caused by the frost bites, which had afterwards to be operated on in Vienna.

'I can never be grateful enough to the Seiler family for all their attention and kindness to me during this trying time. A friend, writing to me from London, most truly remarked: "It must always be a matter of congratulation to you that the accident took place in the Zermatt district, and that you were with the Seilers." I also feel that I can never thank Dr. de Courten sufficiently for his skilful treatment of my case.'

Herr Lorria thus sums up his impressions:—

'Many an Alpine climber going without guides has paid for his daring love of mountains with his heart's blood. And this has happened more than once in recent years. People even went so far as to maintain that most accidents are caused by the want of guides. It was true, we had no guides! But to attribute our accident to this cause would be utter folly. Eminent guides had been over the same route we had chosen. One cannot see the ice on the rocks from below with a telescope. At the point from which we turned back every good guide would have turned, and lower down there was but one choice to the climber, be he guide or traveller—either to endure the falling stones for seven hours, or else to risk the passage of the couloir, which was not a very wide one. I am sure that no guide would have failed in deciding on the latter course. It is improbable that a guide could have extricated himself from the difficulty as well as Lammer did, and even if he had done so none could have accomplished more than Lammer.

'The lesson to be learnt from our accident is not, "Always take guides," but rather, "Never try the Penhall route on the Matterhorn, except after a long series of fine, hot days, for otherwise the western wall of the mountain is the most fearful mousetrap in the Alps."'

THE EIGER BY THE MITTELLEGI ARÊTE.—Among the Alpine problems of the Bernese Oberland there is none which is more exasperating than the Eiger by the Mittellegi arête. This ridge is very well seen from the valley of Grindelwald, and appears from a distance (save from the direction of the Gross Scheidegg) comparatively easy, but it long defied the most determined efforts of many parties, consisting of well-tried climbers and first-rate guides. It was, therefore, with considerable interest that the news was received that an Austrian climber, Herr Moritz v. Kuffner, had, in 1885, succeeded in forcing it downwards, starting from the summit of the peak. His narrative has, however, only very recently appeared, and may be read in Nos. 235 and 236 (January 13 and 27, 1888) of the 'Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung,' from which we take the following particulars. Herr v. Kuffner, with Alexander Burgener, A. Kalbermatter, and J. M. Biener, made a first attempt on July 29, 1885, starting from the Eigerhöhle. On this occasion the party, so Herr v. Kuffner thinks, reached a more westerly point on the ridge than any of their predecessors, even than Mr. Maund

on July 31, 1881; but having reached the very foot of the great wall which towers above the 'gendarme,' or sixth tooth, they could not see any way *up* it. The thought struck them that it might be possible to come *down* it, and so they returned to Grindelwald, leaving a rope on the E. side of the 'gendarme' to be used on their future undertaking (Mr. Maund's rope was found on the *fourth* tooth, which is not the well-known 'gendarme,' according to Herr v. Kuffner, who pays a high compliment to Mr. Maund's spirited narrative of his gallant attempts printed in Vol. xi. of this Journal). On July 31, 1885, the same party (with the addition of a young Grindelwald porter named **Baumann**), starting from the Kl. Scheidegg a little after midnight, reached the summit of the Eiger by the usual route at 7.20 A.M. Here, Herr v. Kuffner informs us, the young porter 'who had come so far, whether merely for his own satisfaction or on other grounds I know not,' was left 'to wait for a party which was coming up after us.'

Herr v. Kuffner and the three others left the summit at 8.10, and passing along a narrow rock ridge with a great coping of snow on the left, gained at 9 the edge of the great rock wall which falls towards the 'gendarme.' A flag was hoisted here which was seen from Grindelwald, whence their progress during the rest of the day was followed with the closest attention. The first bit of the descent was not difficult, but matters soon changed, and at 10.45 they came to the first of the 'places on which we let ourselves down by the rope.' This proved, perhaps, the most difficult bit of the entire descent, as the foothold was very bad. Three in turn were let down holding on to the doubled slender rope (which was fixed to the rocks) and tied to a Manila rope, Burgener (the last man) helping himself by a rope which he had secured above, while the others held the end below. This process was repeated, and finally, after many difficulties, they succeeded in reaching, at 1.45 P.M. (after 4¾ hours' work), the deep depression in the ridge just W. of the great 'gendarme.' The rocks are described as 'very rotten, but throughout that day dry and warm.' As they had taken a very small amount of provisions with them (and these were already consumed), and as their cigars had been broken to pieces during the clamber down, there was no reason for a prolonged halt. The rest of the way was, of course, already known to them. At 7.15 P.M. they left the arête, and, descending to the Kallifirn, succeeded by the light of matches (for their candles had, like the cigars, been broken in the course of the day), in reaching the Eigerhöhle, where they spent a wretched night without blankets or food, save a soup prepared by Burgener from the bits of tobacco, salt, pepper, candle, and dust, which he shook out of his knapsack, added to a little water. But this soup was not all consumed, the adventurers preferring to warm themselves by a fire made of some stray logs of wood before stretching out their weary limbs on the bare rock, which was hard but dry. The weather broke next day, and they reached Grindelwald in torrents of rain at 8 A.M.

Herr v. Kuffner expressly states that his party did *not* solve the Mittellegi ridge problem, for they did not ascend the ridge. The descent, he thinks, might, perhaps, be made without ropes, but it would be 'uncommon difficult and dangerous.' He holds that the

expedition (as it was actually made) is not a dangerous one for first-rate climbers; but since it is necessary to pass along a high and exposed ridge for many hours, fine, settled weather is essential. Herr v. Kuffner thinks they had too much rope with them—100 mètres (= 328 feet) of a rope 'rather thicker than a pencil,' 30 mètres (= 98 feet) of silk rope, besides two Manila ropes of 'the usual length.' We gather that the 100 mètres rope was abandoned below the difficult bit described above.

THE GROSS VIESCHERHORN.—In my paper published in the '*Alpine Journal*' for November last (p. 381) I pointed out that the actual summit of the Gross Viescherhorn does *not* lie on the boundary ridge between Bern and Valais, but a little to the south of it. On communicating this fact to Herr X. Imfeld, the well-known Federal engineer, he informed me that my statement is quite correct; but that, as the distance from the summit to the boundary ridge is apparently only from 20 to 30 mètres (66 to 99 feet), it would on the Siegfried map (scale 1 in 50,000) be represented by a line from 0·4 to 0·6 millimètre in length, and could scarcely be indicated there.

The distance thus is far less than that between the Grenzzipfel and the Höchste Spitze of Monte Rosa (clearly shown on the Siegfried map). Strictly speaking, however, Monte Rosa is in Switzerland, and the Gross Viescherhorn in Valais. In the case of the Gross Viescherhorn, the distance from the frontier line is so small that Mr. Moore's statement, on the occasion of the first ascent of the peak in 1862,\* is quite justified:—'Looking north, at our feet, at the base of a precipice so sheer that, to all appearance, a stone dropped from where we were sitting would have fallen clear for thousands of feet, was the Lower Grindelwald glacier.'

A. LORRIA.

EARLY NAMES OF THE LYSKAMM AND WELLENKUPPE.—The old name 'Silberbast' for the Lyskamm has almost been forgotten. Herr Studer † says that it has a foreign sound, and could not, therefore, last long. Yet the word 'Bast' must be familiar to many visitors to Zermatt, for it is applied in the local dialect to the wooden saddles of the pack-mules. It does not require a great deal of imagination to suppose that the name 'Silberbast' was given to the Lyskamm because, seen from the Gornergrat, it has the appearance of a huge snowy pack-saddle, and the name is therefore very appropriate.

I ascertained last summer from an old peasant that the original name of the Wellenkuppe was 'Weisskopf.' Herr X. Imfeld, who was charged with the survey of that group for the Siegfried map, was unable to find out the name of the peak, and therefore simply indicated its height, 3,910 mètres. I have drawn his attention to the name 'Weisskopf,' and he will cause it to be inserted on the Federal map. All who have seen the peak from the slopes above Zermatt will agree that 'Weisskopf' describes its appearance admirably. The name 'Wellenkuppe' seems to have been given by Mr. Conway in the '*Zermatt Pocket Book*' (p. 114) before he made the second ascent of the peak in 1881.‡

A. LORRIA.

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. p. 243. † *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. ii. p. 63.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 359.

THE DÜRRENHORN BY THE N.W. FACE.—The following details supplement the mention of this ascent in 'Alpine Journal,' xiii. 412. Starting from the Hohberg Cave at 3 A.M. on July 30, 1887, Herren Lammer, Lorria, and Kellerbauer parted company with Mr. Eckenstein on reaching the W. ridge of the peak, and descended to the Dürrenfad. Keeping then along slopes of *débris* close under the W. ridge, they gained the left bank of the Dürren glacier and crossed it to a couloir leading straight to the summit. This couloir was reached after cutting from one hundred to one hundred and fifty steps in snow and climbing up some iced rocks. Striking to the left the party traversed to a second, then to a third couloir, and in this way attained by iced and rotten rocks with great difficulty the N. snow ridge, whence a few steps led them to the summit of the peak, at 1.45 P.M. Starting again at 2.55 they descended easily to the Hohberg Pass, and thence went down from a point a little to the W. of the pass to the Gassenried glacier, meeting with some difficulties on the way, the route taken lying mainly along a rock rib which projects far into the ice wall. The party then proceeded to the Galenjoch, where at 8.40 P.M. they rejoined Mr. Eckenstein.

The Galen Pass, and in fact the glaciers generally of the Nadelgrat, have changed very much since 1886, the pass being much less troublesome on the Gassenried side. The four gentlemen above named are inclined to believe that Sommermatter and Brantschen in 1863 did really cross the Hohberg Pass itself, and not the Galen Pass, as the great snow or ice slope leading to the former varies much from year to year, and the pass may always be reached by the rocks without touching the snow wall.

THE CENTENARY OF DE SAUSSURE'S ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.—In many respects the ascent of Mont Blanc by de Saussure on August 3, 1787, though but the third in order of date, was more important than those made previously. The French Alpine Club, therefore, fitly organised a fête on the occasion of the centenary of his ascent, though the Federal Marksmen's festival at Geneva and the Congress of the French Club in the Vosges caused the celebration to be delayed till August 28. The weather was very propitious, and all seems to have passed off well. The event of the day was the unveiling of a statue of de Saussure and Jacques Balmat executed by M. Salmson, and shown at the last Salon. It is now erected on the 'place' before the Hôtel Royal, which is to be henceforth known as the 'place de Saussure.' The chief speaker at the unveiling ceremony was M. Spuller, the Minister of Public Instruction, whose oration was much applauded. It aimed at showing how each of the two heroes of the day helped each other in the conquest of Mont Blanc, and its pith is summed up in one phrase, 'La science a servi l'adresse, et l'adresse a servi la science.' Later in the day a banquet of over two hundred covers took place at the Hôtel Couttet. Among the congratulatory telegrams read was one from the President of the Alpine Club. The Club itself was not officially represented, but a former member, Mr. W. C. Sidgwick, made an excellent speech. The streets of Chamonix were lavishly decorated with garlands and arches, and bands of music abounded, while at night

there was a torchlight procession and illuminations (even at the Grands Mulets) and fireworks. The only drawback to the general success seems to have been the excessive heat of the day. An interesting fact was the presence of Monsieur J. Vallot, who had just spent sixty hours on the summit of Mont Blanc making scientific observations, thus falsifying a prophecy of de Saussure (appositely cited by Monsieur C. Durier in his speech): 'Je conservais l'espoir d'achever sur le Col du Géant ce que je n'avais pas fait et que vraisemblablement on ne fera jamais sur le Mont-Blanc.' We note, too, that one of the present members of the great savant's family assisted at the fête.

VALLOMBROSA AND THE PRATO MAGNO.—Milton has given the name of Vallombrosa a 'musical charm' to English ears, and another of our great poets, Wordsworth, has, in some deservedly less known and rather hymn-bookish stanzas, recorded his visit to the convent, and paid his tribute to his predecessor. Mr. Story, the American sculptor, whose son-in-law now owns and often inhabits the Medicean villa *Al Lago*, a mile or two from the convent, has written a pleasant little book about his summer retreat.\* But still comparatively very few of the English visitors to Florence realise the charms of the spot, or how easy it is to reach it. It is a four-hours' drive direct from Florence, or 2½ hrs. from the station of Pontassieve. The old strangers' house of the convent has been turned into a capital inn; the convent itself into a School of Forestry. Its height is 3,140 feet.

Wordsworth describes the situation with perfect accuracy:—'I had expected, as the name implies, a deep and narrow valley overshadowed by enclosing hills, but the spot where the convent stands is, in fact, not a valley at all, but a cove or crescent open to an extensive prospect. In the strangers' book I read the notice in the English language that if anyone would ascend the steep ground above the convent and wander over it he would be abundantly rewarded by magnificent views. I had not time to act upon this recommendation, and only went with my young guide to a point nearly on a level with the site of the convent that overlooks the vale of the Arno for some leagues.'

It appears that even a poet before railways was not exempt from the superstition current among travellers that 'they have not time'! I and my children found leisure to follow out the recommendation of the unknown Englishman, which Wordsworth preserved, if he did not profit by. A road leads to the spot (10 min. from the monastery) to which Wordsworth was taken. Here stand an old hermitage and a great modern villa. 'Some leagues' is a very inadequate description of the view. It extends down the Arno valley as far as the peaks of Carrara, behind which the sun is wont to set in purple splendour. Hence a fair walker can follow the top of the crest that embays the monastery, mounting steadily till, where a horse-path crosses the ridge, he reaches the foot of a steep hillside. Climbing the slope, he will, after a stiff short pull, find himself on the crest of the Prato Magno (5,200

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\* See Story's *Vallombrosa*. London, 1881. Travellers who propose to visit Vallombrosa or the sanctuaries of the Casentino may also consult with advantage Professor Bertini's *Dimore Estive dell' Appennino Toscano* (Florence, 1884).

feet), a noble Apennine which stretches for miles between the upper and middle valleys of the Arno, filling the centre of the great bend of the river, and overlooking the Casentino to the 'gran giogo' of the Central Apennines. The views in every direction are most beautiful, and worthy of the heart of Italy. Westwards, near the foot of the mountain and between it and the Arno, is seen a very strange district of clay-hills, weather-worn into most fantastic shapes, which may account for many of the otherwise unintelligible backgrounds of the early Florentine school. When morning mists are mixed up with the serrated ridges the effect is almost extravagant, and would certainly be thought altogether so in a picture. The return may be shortened by taking the horse-path already mentioned, a deep furrow filled in the first days of November knee-deep with the brown leaves of the beech-woods. The pine-forest which surrounds the convent is an exotic introduced by the monks, and, like most artificial creations, does not (to my taste, at least) agree with the scenery so well as the chestnuts and beech-woods native to the spot. The Italians, however, find a great charm in its singularity and healthiness.

D. W. F.

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Reise in den Andes von Chile und Argentinien.* Von Paul Güssfeldt. (Berlin: Gebrüder Paetel, 1887. Pp. 480. 18s.)

*Bericht über eine Reise in den centralen chileno-argentinischen Andes, von Paul Güssfeldt (Sitzungsbericht der physikalisch-mathematischen Classe der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin vom 24. Juli 1884).*

IN modern times no exploration like this has been made of the Andes chain, combining mountain climbing with skilled topographical observation. When Mr. Whymper in 1880 ascended Chimborazo, he was with skilled Alpine guides and in a known district, but in the present case both of these essentials were wanting. When Herr Güssfeldt formed the design of exploring the Chilian Andes we need not enquire how far the desire of throwing light on a little known district which he sets forth in his preface was mingled with the ambition of conquering a new mountain world. Along with the well-known guide Alexander Burgener, Herr Güssfeldt reached Valparaiso on October 15, 1882. Burgener was ill on the voyage, and on reaching land had to go into the hospital. A week later Herr Güssfeldt was surprised to learn at Santiago that Burgener wished to return to Europe. Other causes (to which Herr Güssfeldt does not refer) than indisposition contributed to this resolution of Burgener. The loss of such a man was a severe blow to Herr Güssfeldt's expedition, and it probably contributed greatly, if not entirely, to the failure of his great ascent. Our interest in Herr Güssfeldt's explorations is concentrated chiefly on the ascent of Maipo and the two attempts on Aconcagua. And this not on account of rock or glacier difficulties to be overcome (for these were conspicuous by their absence), but on account of the great height of the peaks. But before referring to these we must briefly describe